

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

by Jim Quay
Executive Director
California Council for the Humanities

Prompted by threats to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council's major funding source, CCH embarked on a strategic planning process last fall. After nine months of assessing its organizational strengths and weaknesses, consulting with dozens of California leaders to determine trends and needs, and reviewing its programs and options, the Council has approved some new strategic directions. Though many important details remain to be decided, the main features of the plan are now clear.

One feature that will *not* change is the Council's mission, which remains "to lead in fostering multicultural understanding and strengthening community life throughout California, through programming which provides access to the texts and insights of the humanities." In fact, the first point in the Council's new strategy is to focus both its grant-giving and its own program initiatives even more sharply on that mission. Revised grant guidelines, to be released this fall, will require that all grant proposals address the mission.

Second, the Council will focus some of its grant-giving and initiatives on specific programmatic themes. CCH will incubate these



Jim Quay

themes in consultation with prospective funders. Given the uncertainty of federal funds, this process is designed to locate a compelling theme that non-federal funders can support. Public meetings may then gauge public reception and further hone the themes.

The decision to focus its grant-giving and its own programs on its mission and on a particular theme has made the Council look anew at the dozens of organizations who have received CCH grants in the past. Public radio and television stations, libraries, museums, and other cultural organizations could be enlisted as parts of a statewide network capable of delivering humanities programming anywhere in the state.

As one of the few cultural institutions in California with a statewide perspective, we feel we have a role to play in a state which still lacks an adequate cultural infrastructure.

In addition, the new focus permits the Council to envision links between the many kinds of formats. The creation of an anthology for use in reading-and-discussion groups could be linked to a radio series or an exhibit or a speakers bureau, for instance, enhancing the impact of each particular format.

Finally, the Council will more energetically emphasize its role as a convenor. As one of the few cultural institutions in California with a statewide perspective, we feel we have a role to play in a state which still lacks an adequate cultural infrastructure.

The Sesquicentennial Theme

The California Sesquicentennial of the Gold Rush and Statehood will furnish the first set of programmatic themes. The Council will itself create an integrated set of projects addressing these themes—also to be published this fall—and CCH will award competitive grants to projects addressing the Sesquicentennial.

We think the California Sesquicentennial is a worthy first project. All the word denotes is a 150th anniversary, an arbitrary marker, as most anniversaries are. But marking a 150th anniversary is no less meaningful for being arbitrary. One of the first things the California Department of Parks and Recreation did when researching was to see how the California Centennial had been commemorated. To see how Californians commemorated their centennial is to learn something about the state of the state in 1948-50. (By the way, the state legislature then provided the equivalent of \$30 million for the Centennial)

Now it is our turn. Though the Sesquicentennial commemoration may be focused on events in the past, it is also an act of self-definition for this generation of Californians. What will we admire? What

Continued on page ten.

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

October is National Arts and Humanities Month. We urge you to mark the occasion by attending and supporting cultural activities in your community throughout the month.

For a listing of some of the Council-sponsored humanities programs scheduled in California during October, please see the Humanities Calendar on pages six through eight.

Of special note are the "Democracy in America" programs being held in Fresno, San Diego, and San Francisco in October (see page nine for details). Also in October, the first "Highway 99 Writers-in-Conversation" programs will take place in Modesto and Merced (see

Humanities Calendar listings for October 13 and 27). Finally, in early October the Council and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will host an

exhibition and discussion on the world wide web focusing on the museum's photography exhibit, "Crossing the Frontier: Photographs of the Developing West, 1849 to the Present" (see page 10 of this newsletter for more information).

Please also check with your local museums, historical societies, libraries,

art galleries, colleges and universities, and other cultural organizations—and participate in the national celebration of art and culture during the month of October.



National Arts
and Humanities
Month

October

Network

In this issue

Grants Awarded page 2
The Council awards \$140,000 in major grants to 13 public humanities projects.

Ken Burns on the NEH page 4
Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns speaks in support of NEH during "Humanities on the Hill" breakfast.

Humanities Calendar page 6

"Democracy in America" page 9
Alexis de Tocqueville comes to Fresno, San Diego and San Francisco

Congressional Update page 10

Proposal-Writing Workshops page 11

The California Council for the Humanities is a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Network is published quarterly and mailed to anyone who requests it from the San Francisco office.

Grants Awarded

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Walking in Two Worlds

Sponsor: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
Project Director: Kathleen Conti
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the presentation of a series of lectures by six contemporary California Indians from different Native American cultures who incorporate the values and traditions of their ancestors into their daily lives. The series will begin in September 1996 with a lecture by Frank LaPena, director of Native American studies and professor of art and of ethnic studies at CSU, Sacramento, and end in March 1997 with a presentation by Nisenan/Maidu artist Harry Fonseca. These programs are part of the California Indian Culture Project, whose goals are to increase public awareness about the history, culture and diversity of Native Californians and to encourage Indian people to learn about and pass on their heritage.

Redescubriendo Nuestra Historia: Mexican Los Angeles, 1781-1996

Sponsor: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
Project Director: William D. Estrada
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Founded on September 4, 1781 by 44 settlers of the present-day Mexican states of Sonora and Sinaloa, Los Angeles remained a predominantly Mexican city at least until the time of the American Civil War, when a growing Anglo American community became increasingly powerful. By the dawn of the 20th century Los Angeles was "remade" into a land of orange groves, movie making, and economic growth, and its Mexican past was largely forgotten. This award supports a scholar-led public conference exploring the Mexican history of Los Angeles and the impact that that history continues to have on the Los Angeles of today. The all-day conference is scheduled to be held at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument on November 23, 1996.

Isn't S/He a Doll? Play and Ritual in African Sculpture

Sponsor: UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History
Project Director: Doron H. Ross
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports an interpretive exhibition and related public programs exploring the functions of African figurines, or dolls, as playthings, ritual objects for ceremonies of initiation, marriage, fertility and death, and collectors' items. The exhibition will feature more than 180 works from 19 African countries organized thematically to provide contemporary Western viewers with multiple, provocative points of comparison and understanding. A series of public lectures and gallery talks will offer the public opportunities to further explore questions raised by the exhibition. The exhibition and public programs are scheduled to begin in the middle of November 1996.



Artist Harry Fonseca, whose work draws heavily from his Maidu heritage, is one of the lecturers in the "Walking in Two Worlds" programs. Photo courtesy of Harry Fonseca and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.



From "Redescubriendo Nuestra Historia." Pio de Jesus Pico was the last Mexican governor of California, from 1845-1846. Photo courtesy of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

MEDIA PROJECTS

SCRIPTS

The California Sesquicentennial Project ("Chasing the Dream")

Sponsor: Independent Producers Services, Berkeley
Project Director: Jed Riffe
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds and \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

This award supports script development for a four-part television documentary about California's history from statehood in 1850 to the present. The film intends to present a comprehensive social, political, and economic history by organizing around four main themes: "Opportunity and Growth," "Diversity and Conflict," "Land and Water," and "Myth and Reality." Additional plans call for development of a website, a CD-ROM and a companion book to further engage public audiences in understanding California's complex history.

Women in the Construction Zone

Sponsor: Southern California Library for Social Research, Los Angeles
Project Director: Vivian Price
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the development of a script for a television video documentary about women who were construction workers on the Century Freeway in Los Angeles during the 1980s and early 1990s. The Century Freeway became one of the biggest jobs for women construction workers in U.S. history, and the video will explore the historical background of this project as well as its personal, political, social and economic impacts on the lives of the women construction workers and their families.

Contemporary Korean Short Stories Radio Series

Sponsor: KCRW-FM, Santa Monica
Project Director: Lauren W. Deutsch
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports script development for six one-hour radio programs featuring readings of an estimated 15 stories in English translation. Each program will focus on a theme or cultural context selected to introduce non-Korean listeners to significant literary works by Korean writers and to increase listeners' understanding of Korean culture and values.



From "Women in the Construction Zone." One of the Youthbuild student workers working on housing constructed through the Century Freeway Project. Photo courtesy of Vivian Price.

Grants Awarded

Searching for San Diego: The San Ysidro Story

Sponsor: KPBS-TV, San Diego
Project Director: Dr. Poul Espinosa
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Once part of the "Rancho de Tia Juana" land grant given by the Mexican government to Don Santiago Arguello in 1828, San Ysidro today is marked by the changes that have affected many American communities—an influx of immigrants from diverse backgrounds, tension between large corporations and family-run businesses, political conflicts between downtown interests and local community interests, and the profound effects of highways and the modern transportation infrastructure on community life. An outgrowth of the Council's own "Searching for San Diego" project, this script development project for a public television documentary will examine the history and development of San Ysidro and use this examination to reflect on changes occurring in much of American society.

Song of the Sea

Sponsor: Just So Productions, San Francisco
Project Director: Marc Bruno
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

A one-hour documentary film script project, "Song of the Sea" focuses on the lives of three Scandinavian sailors—among the last surviving sailors to have sailed professionally aboard square-riggers—who worked extensively in the Caribbean before migrating to the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1920s. These sailors were part of a community of pan-Nordic seafarers in Northern California whose experiences in the rum and sugar trade gave rise to the world's first trade union for able-bodied seamen. They were also part of a cosmopolitan harbor community noted for tolerance and respect among ethnic groups and races. Their private histories will form the basis for a wider examination of changing American attitudes towards race, ethnicity, immigration, and labor.



From "Between Two Worlds." Photo of Upton Sinclair courtesy of Lauren Coodley.

PRODUCTION

California Indian Radio Project

Sponsor: Northern California Cultural Communications, Hoopo
Project Director: Rhoby Cook
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

This award supports the production of six radio programs in a 13-part series examining historical and contemporary Native Californian cultures, knowledge and values. The series will also explore how Native people have interacted with their natural environments and with the non-Indian population of California over time. Among the programs planned are "Cleaning Out the Spring: Practicing Ceremony," an exploration of recent efforts among Native Californians to reaffirm traditional ceremonies and rituals; and "Encounters in California," which will describe how Native Californians viewed the influx of Spanish missionaries and American goldminers and settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as how Native peoples adapted to the changes brought about by these interactions with newcomers. The programs are scheduled to begin airing in the middle of 1997.

Third Strike

Sponsor: Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco
Project Director: Michael J. Moore
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

Relying on the work of legal scholars and historians and criminal justice experts, this one-hour documentary film will trace the history of California's changing legal philosophy over the past 30 years and probe the moral and philosophical choices the society makes when it passes voter initiatives like California's Proposition 184 ("Three Strikes and You're Out"). The documentary will also involve community activists and minority groups in analyzing California's history of crime and punishment, with the goal of creating a broader, more inclusive discussion of how California can reduce crime.

Between Two Worlds: The Art and Social Vision of Upton Sinclair

Sponsor: KTEH-TV, San Jose
Project Director: Lauren Coodley
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

During the first half of this century, Upton Sinclair was one of the country's best known writers and social activists. His career included the publication of *The Jungle*, a classic piece of "muckracking" that changed the meat packing industry, a nearly-successful run for governor of California in 1934, and a 1942 Pulitzer Prize for his novel *Dragon's Teeth*. This one-hour documentary film seeks to reevaluate Sinclair's political and literary achievements in contemporary terms, as well as reintroduce his work to the American audiences. Using a wide variety of primary documents and drawing on multiple critical perspectives, the film will also examine the rich interactions between Sinclair's popular fiction and his social activism.

Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco Episode 3: The Castro

Sponsor: KQED-TV, San Francisco
Project Director: Peter L. Stein
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

The third episode in KQED's 10-part television series about the neighborhoods of San Francisco, this 90-minute documentary will depict the century-long evolution of a quiet residential neighborhood once known as Eureka Valley, and its rapid transformation in the 1960s and 1970s into the Castro, an international center of gay politics and culture. The documentary will also explore such larger questions of American contemporary life as what is the role of identity politics in creating both solidarity and friction in a social minority; does a community brought together out of a shared desire truly constitute a "culture;" and to what extent do minority cultures sacrifice diversity and inclusiveness to achieve mainstream acceptance?



From "Loners on Wheels." Photo of Duchess Grubb, age 87, after she was crowned "Queen of the Slabs." The Slabs, an old army base south of Palm Springs, is the winter homebase for Loners on Wheels (LOW). Photo by Susan E. Morosoli.

Loners on Wheels

Sponsor: Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco
Project Director: Susan E. Morosoli
Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

This one-hour film documentary focuses on women members of Loners on Wheels, a national, singles-only recreational vehicle club for retirees. Through a recounting of representative personal stories—particularly the story of 87-year-old Duchess Grubb—the film will also explore issues of aging, the changing roles of women in American society, and contemporary notions of community and self-sufficiency.

GOING TO BAT FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

by Ken Burns

Every spring, members of the nation's state humanities councils assemble in Washington, D.C. for "Humanities on the Hill." The gathering enables the councils to inform their congressional delegations about the work of the councils and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the citizens of the individual states.

At the kick-off breakfast this year, more than 30 U.S. Senators and Representatives and nearly 150 members of their staffs heard documentary filmmaker Ken Burns deliver a ringing endorsement of NEH and the state councils. What follows is an edited version of those remarks.

It is an honor for me to come down from New Hampshire today to express my wholehearted support for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Let me say from the outset that I am a passionate supporter of the Endowments and their unique role in helping to stitch our exquisite, diverse, and often fragile culture together.

Few institutions provide such a direct, grassroots way for our citizens to participate in the shared glories of their common past, in the power of the priceless ideals that have animated our remarkable republic and our national life for more than two hundred years, and in the inspirational life of the mind and the heart that an engagement with the arts and humanities always provides. It is my sincere belief that anything which weakens these institutions weakens our country. It is as simple as that.

For nearly 20 years I have been producing historical documentary films, celebrating the excruciatingly wise messages American history continually directs our way. The subjects of these films



Ken Burns

range from the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty to the life of the turbulent Southern demagogue Huey Long; from the graceful architecture of the Shakers to the early founders of radio; from the sublime pleasures and unexpected lessons of our national pastime to the searing transcendent experience of our Civil War. I even made a film on the history of this magnificent building and the much maligned institution that is charged with conducting the people's business.

In nearly every instance, these films have been produced with the support and encouragement of the National Endowment for the Humanities, either at the state or national level. In every instance, I have produced these films for national public television broadcast, not the lucrative commercial networks or cable. For each film project we have worked on, we have willingly submitted to the Endowment's unique and rigorous proposal process, sometimes producing

Without a doubt, my series on the Civil War or baseball could not have been made without the National Endowment for the Humanities.

documents running to several hundred pages of detailed scholarly interpretation, budgetary analysis, and scrupulous pre-planning. The months-long application process includes, among many difficult requirements, the engagement of nationally recognized scholars who advise at every juncture of the production, insuring balance, adjudicating differences in historical interpretation, offering a variety of perspectives and modes of inquiry.

Without a doubt, my series on the Civil War or Baseball could not have been made without the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment not only provided some of these project's largest grants, thereby attracting other funders, but also, through unrelated grants to other institutions, helped restore the archival photographs we would use to tell our story.

As I produced my own documentaries over the years, I have watched the Endowment fund literally thousands of other projects that have touched Americans, that have engaged Americans, that have made a difference in American lives that belies the relatively small outlay of public funds necessary to sustain these fundamentally good works. I have watched the Endowments save critical archival documents from decay and destruction, bring great art to the high plains of South Dakota, send professors from Nebraska and Georgia on important research trips their own universities could not underwrite, and I have watched a man bring Thomas Jefferson to life in the little towns of my own conservative State of New Hampshire to the delight and inspiration of all.

But now, and sadly not for the first time, I hear critics saying that these remarkably efficient Endowments must be scrapped, that our government has no business in the arts and humanities, that we must let the marketplace alone determine everything in our cultural life, that these huge broad-based institutions are essentially elitist, that a few controversial projects prove the leftist political bias of not only the Endowments but the entire artistic and academic communities. I feel strongly that I must respond to these charges.

A History of Support

Since the beginning of this country, our government has been involved in supporting the arts and the diffusion of knowledge, which was deemed as critical to our future as roads and dams and bridges. Early on, Thomas Jefferson and the other founding fathers knew that the pursuit of happiness did not mean a hedonistic search for pleasure in the marketplace but an active involvement of the mind in the higher aspects of human endeavor—namely education, music, the arts, and history. Congress supported the journey of Lewis and Clark as much to explore the natural, biological, ethnographic, and cultural landscape of our expanding nation as to open up a new trading route to the Pacific. Congress supported numerous geographical, artistic, photographic, and biological expeditions to nearly every corner of the developing West. Congress funded, through the Farm Securities Administration, the work of Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange and other great photographers who captured for posterity the terrible human cost of the Depression. At the same time, Congress funded some of the most enduring writing ever produced about this country's people, its monuments, buildings, and backroads in the still much used and universally admired WPA guides. Some of our greatest symphonic work, our most treasured dramatic plays, and early documentary film classics came from an earlier Congress' support.

With Congress' great insight the Endowments were born and grew to their startlingly effective maturity echoing the same time-honored sense that our government has an interest in helping to sponsor art and education just as it sponsors commerce. We are not talking about a free ride, but a priming of the pump, a way to get the juices flowing, in the spirit of President Reagan's notion of a partnership between the government and the private sector. The NEH grant I got for the Civil War series attracted even more funds from General Motors and several private foundations; money that would not have been there had not the Endowment blessed this project with their rigorously earned imprimatur.



Using rare archival footage, photographs and interviews, Ken Burns' 19-hour documentary film, *Baseball*, chronicled almost 200 years of the national pastime in its nine "innings." The documentary received key initial funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Photo of Babe Ruth in Nova Scotia in 1936 courtesy of the Babe Ruth Museum.

From Ken Burn's epic film documentary *The Civil War*.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE FAMOUS DURING THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD?

1. The Union nurse who tended the wounded on battlefields from Cedar Mountain to Antietam; 2. The runaway slave, called Moses by the people who followed her north to freedom on the Underground Railroad; 3. The graduate of West Point, class of 1861, who rose to be a general and came to believe in his own invincibility; 4. He vowed "to consecrate my life to the destruction of slavery." (Answers below). Images courtesy of Florentine Films; Civil War Photo Quiz courtesy of General Motors Mark of Excellence Presentations.



#1



#2



#3



#4

When I was working more than ten years ago on a film about the Statue of Liberty, its history and powerful symbolism, I had the great good fortune to meet and interview Vartan Gregorian, who was then the president of the New York Public Library, and who is now the president of Brown University. After an extremely interesting and passionate interview on the meaning behind the statue for an immigrant like him—from Tabriz, Iran—Vartan took me on a long and fascinating tour of the miles of stacks of the New York Public Library. Finally, after galloping down one claustrophobic corridor, he stopped and gestured expansively. "This," he said, surveying his library from its guts, "this is the DNA of our civilization." He was saying that that library—indeed, all libraries, archives, and historical societies—are the DNA of our society, leaving an imprint of excellence and intention for generations to come. It occurs to me, as we debate the very existence of the Endowments, that they, as well as public television, are also part, a critical part, of the great genetic legacy of our nation. They are, in the best sense, modern educational institutions first and foremost.

The Limits of the Marketplace

But there are those who are sure that without the Endowments, the so-called "marketplace" would take care of everything; that what won't survive in the marketplace doesn't deserve to survive. Nothing could be further from the truth, because we are not just talking about the commerce of a nation, we are not just economic beings, but spiritual and intellectual beings as well, and so we are talking about the creativity of a nation. Now, some forms of creativity thrive in the marketplace and that is a wonderful thing, reflected in our glorious Hollywood movies and our globally popular music. But let me say that the marketplace could

not have made and to this day could not make my Civil War series, indeed any of the films I have worked on.

That marketplace does not produce, by the way, the most respected news program on television; that marketplace does not produce the most respected children's, history, and science programs on television either. These are but a small part of the legacy of the Endowments and PBS, institutions supported by 70 percent of Republicans, 80 percent of Independents, and 90 percent of Democrats across the country.

That marketplace does not save the old papers of a Founding Father, it doesn't fund research into that which enriches our heritage—not necessarily our pocketbooks or what is fashionable at the moment—and it does not fund the local poetry reading, or dance recital, or symphony group, or lecture on great books that take place daily from Maine to California. The Endowments are like posterity's spies—moles penetrating farther and deeper into our political and social landscape than any agent of the so-called marketplace.

No, the marketplace will not produce the good works of the Endowments. Just as the marketplace does not and will not produce a B-2 Bomber, something we are told that is essential to the defense of our country. It has taken government involvement, government sponsorship, government encouragement, government oversight, government absorption of overruns, and government procurement to build a B-2 Bomber. Interestingly, the total cost of both Endowments plus the Corporation for Public Broadcasting does not equal the cost of one B-2 Bomber. It is obvious, too, that the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting have nothing to do with the actual defense of our country—I know that—they just make our country worth defending.

It is a sad commentary when the richest nation on earth cuts its

cultural funding 40 percent and threatens much worse, forcing institutions which serve as the bedrock of our community life to curtail their activities. Don't these overzealous critics realize that 200 years from now whether the military budget increases or decreases a few percent, whether a tax was imposed or repealed will be less important than the quality of our schools, the symphonies we have written, the new museums we have opened. Only in retrospect will they see clearly what we see clearly now: the palpable truth that the aesthetics of living are as important as the standard of living to human life.

Even during the Great Depression, when some towns were forced to shoot the animals in their zoos and distribute the meat to the poor, public libraries were not forced to shorten hours, as they must do now, during a period of unparalleled prosperity, growth, and riches.

Not Just for an Elite

Do not be persuaded by the feeble argument that this is all elitist, that we are funding the superfluous, "opera for the rich." The meat and potatoes of the Endowment's work reaches out to every corner of the country and touches people in positive ways the federal government rarely does. Indeed, it would be elitist itself to abolish the Endowments, to trust to the marketplace and the "natural aristocracy" that many have promised over the last 200 years would rise up to protect us all—and hasn't.

Many have recently criticized the Endowments for certain controversial or political projects; many believe the Endowments and public television are hot-beds of radical thinking. I wonder, though, have they ever applied for an Endowment grant, worked with their staffs or been to a council meeting? I doubt it. These are essentially conservative institutions, filled with people who share the concerns of most Americans. One need only

remember that the Endowments are criticized just as vigorously from the far left to realize at once what a tough job they have, and what a good job they are doing.

And in a free society, the rare examples of controversial scholarship that may run counter to our accepted canon need not be the occasion for a new reactionary Puritanism, but ought to be seen as a healthy sign that we are a nation tolerant of ideas, confident—as the recent tide of geopolitical history has shown—that the best ideas will always prevail.

One hundred and fifty-eight years ago, in 1838, well before the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln challenged us to consider the real threat to the country, to consider forever the real cost of our inattention: "Whence shall we expect the approach of danger?" he wrote. "Shall some transatlantic giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track in the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher." As usual, Mr. Lincoln's words speak to us today with the same force he spoke to his own times.

Most of us here, whether we know it or not, are in the business of words, and we hope, with some reasonable expectation, that those words will last.

But alas, especially today, those words often evaporate, their precision blunted by neglect, their insight diminished by the sheer volume of their ever-increasing brethren, their force diluted by ancient animosities that seem to set each group against the other.

Answers: 1. Clara Barton, 2. Harriet Tubman, 3. George Armstrong Custer, 4. John Brown.

SUMMER Calendar

The public humanities programs listed on these two pages were either created or supported by the California Council for the Humanities. Please note that dates and times should be confirmed with the local sponsors. These listings are often provided to CCH well before final arrangements are made.

Please also check the monthly calendar listings on the Council's world wide web pages at <http://www.calhum.org/>.

EXHIBITS



From the "Shouts from the Walls" exhibit. "El Izquierdista" (The Ultraleftist), a poster by the artist Puyol, 28 x 40 inches, c.1936. The poster reads: "The ambusher wears many disguises to assassinate from under cover. Wipe him out wherever you find him!"

Through
Aug. 10

"Shouts from the Wall" is an exhibition of posters and photographs collected by American volunteers of the Spanish Civil War depicting that war and exploring the relationship of art to modern politics and war. At the Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street, Berkeley. Contact 510/644-6893 for more information.

Through
Aug. 12

"Between Two Worlds: The People of the Border" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of photographs by Don Bartletti exploring perspectives on border life and migration. At the Heritage Room, Corona Public Library, 650 South Main Street. Please call 909/736-2386 for more information.

Through
Aug. 18

"Remember Your Relations: The Elsie Allen Baskets, Family and Friends" is an exhibit of more than 100 baskets dating from the mid-19th century to the present. The exhibit focuses on the extraordinary Pomo Indian basket collection of Elsie Allen (1899-1990), a Pomo weaver, historian and teacher who dedicated the last 30 years of her life to preserving and educating others about Pomo culture. At the Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Please call 510/238-2200 for more information.

Through
August

"Portraits in Black: Celebrating the Buffalo Soldiers" is an exhibit of photographs, artifacts, and documents chronicling the lives, experiences, and accomplishments of African American soldiers (called Buffalo Soldiers) who served in the U.S. military in the 19th and 20th centuries. Presented by the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society at Fort Mason, Building C-165, San Francisco. Contact 415/441-0640 for more information.



From the "Portraits in Black" exhibition. 25th Infantry Non-Commissioned Staff and Band, Fort Lawton, Washington, circa 1910. Photo courtesy of Anthony Powell.

Through
Sept. 15

"Produce for Victory: Posters on the Homefront, 1941-1945" is a CERA-sponsored SITES exhibit of patriotic posters. The exhibit explores the history and effect on production of these efforts to increase industrial and agricultural output. At the Tulare Historical Museum, 4444 Tulare Avenue, Tulare. Please call 209/686-2074 for more information.

Through
Sept. 29

"Gum San: Land of the Golden Mountain" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of artifacts, historical photographs and other documents exploring the presence and importance of the Chinese in the region's history. At the Chico Museum, 431 Salem Street, Chico. Call 916/891-4336 for more information.

Through
Oct. 15

"Picturing Yolo County: Views of the Landscape, 1856-1996" is an exhibition of images from the fine arts, the media and popular culture exploring the geographical diversity of the Sacramento Valley. Yolo County Historical Museum, 512 Gibson Road, Woodland. Call 916/666-1045 for more information.

Aug. 1 -
Nov. 3

"The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry" exhibition of more than 60 pieces representing 26 Native communities from throughout California explores the cultural and aesthetic issues involved in the creation of baskets. At the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento. Call 916/264-5423 for more information.

Aug. 15 -
Oct. 13

"Jose Guadalupe Posada: Mexican Printmaker" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of the 19th century Mexican satirist's graphic art. At the Heritage Room, Corona Public Library, 650 South Main Street. Call 909/736-2386 for more information.

Keep us flying!



From the "Produce for Victory" exhibit. The 1943 "Keep Us Flying" poster shows Airman Robert Deitz, one of the few African Americans depicted in World War II posters. Photo by T. McCrea, courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.



From the "Between Two Worlds" exhibit. "GLADIOLA HARVEST, Encinitas, California, October 7, 1987; José Velasquez carries an armload of harvested gladiolus buds at an Encinitas flower ranch. A perfect climate, imported water, fertilizer, and high-tech farming make the

earth bloom, but little is done for the foreign-born laborer. Velasquez lives in a primitive sleeping shelter on the edge of the field." Photo by Don Bartletti.

Aug. 18 - "Between Two Worlds: The People of the Border" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of photographs by Don Bartletti exploring perspectives on border life and migration. At the Lompoc Museum, 200 S. H Street, Lompoc. Call 805/736-2840 for more information.

Sept. 26 - "Crossing the Frontier: Photographs of the Developing West, 1849 to the Present" will trace the ways photographers have confronted the visual realities of the Western landscape over the last 140 years. Beginning about Oct. 1, CCH and SFMOMA will conduct programs about this exhibition on the world wide web (<http://www.calhum.org>). San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street. Please call 415/357-4000 for information more information about the exhibit.

Oct. 5 - "Gum San: Land of the Golden Mountain" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of artifacts, historical photographs and other documents exploring the presence and importance of the Chinese in the region's history. At the Clarke Memorial Museum, Third and E Streets, Eureka. Call 707/443-1947 for more information

Oct. 18 - "Jose Guadalupe Posada: Mexican Printmaker" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of the 19th century Mexican satirist's graphic art. At the Museum of History and Art, 225 South Euclid Avenue, Ontario. Call 909/7983-3198 for more information.

Oct. 19 - "Photography and the Old West" is a CERA-sponsored exhibition of historical photographs by 19th and 20th century photographers, many of whom came west to record official government geographical and geological explorations and, later, the development of the railroads and other commercial enterprises. At the Merced County Museum, 21st and N Streets, Merced. Call 209/723-2401 for more information.

E V E N T S

July 31 A screening and discussion of the film "Forever Activist" with filmmaker Judy Montell will be held in conjunction with the "Shouts from the Wall: Poster & Photographs from the Spanish Civil War" exhibit. 7 p.m. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street. Please call 510/644-6893 for more information.

Aug. 3 The "Indian Basketry Festival," held in conjunction with the "Fine Art of California Indian Basketry Exhibition" includes demonstrations of basketry techniques, performances of native dances and songs related to basket weaving, and discussions of decorative motifs and the plants and materials used in basket weaving. Noon. At the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento. Please call 916/264-5423 for more information.



From the "Fine Art of California Indian Basketry Exhibition." "Woman's Ceremonial Cap," by Amy Smoker (Yurok, 1897-1989), c. 1948. Willow root, bear grass, woodwardia fern stem dyed with alder bark, maidenhair fern stem, porcupine quills dyed with staghorn lichen, willow shoots, pileated woodpecker scalps, dentalium shell, abalone shell, 3 1/2 x 7 3/4. From the collection of Vivien Hailstone. Photo by Don Yee, courtesy of the Crocker Art Museum.

Aug. 10 "George Orwell and the Literary Left of the 1930s," a lecture and discussion with Peter Stansky, professor of history at Stanford University, will be held in conjunction with the "Shouts from the Wall: Poster & Photographs from the Spanish Civil War" exhibit. 2 p.m. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street. Call 510/644-6893 for more information.

Aug. 16-18 "The Donner Party Memorial Chautauquas" will feature scholar Doris Dwyer in an in-person portrayal of Margaret Breen of the ill-fated Donner Party and scholar David Fenimore as Lewis Kesseberg, also of the Donner Party. These chautauqua presentations are part of the observances of "California Trail Days 1996." At Donner Memorial State Park. For exact times and locations, contact Frankye Craig, 916/544-3053.

Aug. 24 "Reaching Landings, Turning Corners, And Sometimes Going Into the Dark: How Black Theater Has Reflected Black Culture" is a public symposium exploring the historical context and modern impact of black theater. Panelists include Stanford University theater professor Harry Elam and UC Berkeley theater professor Margaret Wilkerson among others. 3 p.m. ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 Seventeenth Street, San Francisco. For information, contact Thomas Robert Simpson at Afro Solo, 415/346-9344.

Sept. 4 The Council's "Democracy in America" programs begin with a reading-and-discussion group in San Diego. For more information on events in San Diego, Fresno, and San Francisco throughout September and October, see the "Democracy in America" calendar on page nine of this newsletter.

Sept. 12 "It's All In How You See It," is a lecture by Frank LaPena, director of Native American studies and professor of art and of ethnic studies at CSU, Sacramento. As the first lecturer in the "Walking in Two Worlds" series, LaPena will discuss Wintu culture, the responsibilities in acquiring and carrying cultural knowledge, and the contrasts in the ways formal history and tribal elders transmit knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next. 7 p.m. Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road. Call 805/682-4711 for more information.

Sept. 16 "Highway 99 Reading and Discussion" group in Tulare meets for its first session. Led by scholar Jim Nicholson the group will explore writers and writing in the Great Central Valley. 7 p.m. To register for this group, contact the Tulare Historical Museum, 444 West Tulare Avenue. 209/686-2074.



A view of Donner Lake in the late Fall of 1865.

Calendar continues, see next page. ➤

HUMANITIES Calendar

Sept. 26 "Thomas Jefferson in Downieville" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7 p.m. Yuba Theater, 212 Main Street. Please contact Cynthia Forbes at 916/289-0809 for more information.



From the San Francisco New Main Library's "Dimensions of Diversity" exhibit. "Joe's Mother," 1936, photographer unknown. By 1936 Joe DiMaggio was a Yankee. Here his mother listens to her son playing in his first World Series. The picture on top of the radio commemorates his exploit of breaking a Pacific Coast League record by hitting safely in 61 straight games in 1933.

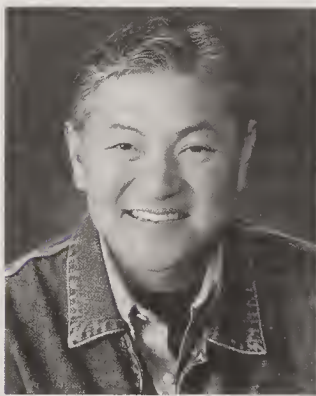
Sept. 27-28 "Dimensions of Diversity: Who Are We?" is the first of two symposia related to the inaugural exhibition at San Francisco's New Main Library. The symposium begins on Friday night at 7 p.m. with a panel of food experts and historians talking about "Breaking Bread Together: Cuisine Creates Common Ground for Diverse Cultures." Other panels and discussions will explore such themes as "The Visual City," "San Francisco at Play," and "Frontiers of Sexual Expression." At Koret Auditorium, San Francisco New Main Public Library, Civic Center. For additional information, please call 415/557-4204.

Oct. 5 Presentations in the first "Seminar" held in conjunction with the "Fine Art of California Indian Basketry Exhibition" will include "A Brief History of California Indian Basketry" by Lawrence E. Dawson, curator emeritus, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum, and "The Historic Effects of the Collectors' Market on Basket and Weavers" by Craig Bates, curator of ethnography at the Yosemite Museum, and Sherrie Smith-Ferri (Pomo), acting curator of the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah. 1 p.m. At the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento. Please call 916/264-5423 for more information.

Oct. 9 "Hidden Voices: Elements of the San Joaquin," a reading-and-discussion group led by University of the Pacific English professor Heather Mayne in Lodi holds its first meeting. The discussion group is an outgrowth of the Council's "Highway 99" Central Valley literature project. 7 p.m. Advance registration is requested. Lodi Public Library, 201 N. Locust Street. Please call the library for more information.

Oct. 10 "Tolowa Teachings: From a Few Words to an Entire Language" is a lecture by Loren Bommelyn, the first person certified to teach an Indian language by a California public school system. Bommelyn will discuss how language shapes and illustrates the Tolowa world view. This is the second lecture in the "Walking in Two Worlds" series. 7 p.m. Fleischmann Auditorium, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road. Call 805/682-4711 for more information.

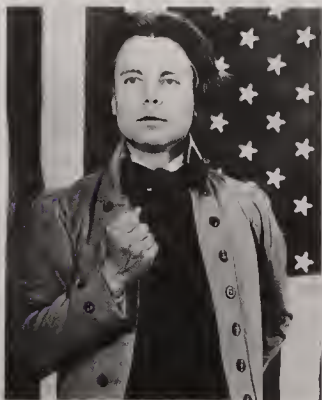
Oct. 11 "Art is the Soul of a Culture" is the last of five symposia on American pluralism and identity held in Fresno as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities' "National Conversation" initiative. This session will explore the conjunction of individual and cultural values and identity as expressed through art. Participants will also discuss how ideas and images cross cultural borders and what differences there are between cross-fertilization and exploitation or usurpation. 7 p.m. Fresno Metropolitan Museum. For more information, please call 209/278-3056



David Mas Masumoto.

Oct. 13 The CCH "Highway 99: Writers-In-Conversation" series features writer **David Mas Masumoto**, author of *Epitaph for a Peach*, in conversation with scholar Cheng Lok Chua. 1 p.m., Stanislaus County Library, Modesto. For information, contact Lillian Vallee at 209/575-3015.

Oct. 17 "Thomas Jefferson in Pico Rivera" features award-winning scholar Clay Jenkinson in a three-part chautauqua presentation about the nation's third president. 7 p.m. Pico Rivera Senior Center/Center for the Arts, 9200 Mines Avenue. For more information, contact Valentina Proo-Garcia at 310/949-4461.



Clay Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson.

Oct. 20 "Alexis de Tocqueville in San Diego" is a three-part in-person portrayal of de Tocqueville by scholar Richard Johnson. Based on de Tocqueville's writings and ideas, Johnson will deliver an in-character monologue then take questions from the audience as de Tocqueville and as a modern-day historian commenting on the life and times of the author of the classic and still relevant book *Democracy in America*. 2 p.m. San Diego Main Library, 820 E Street. For more information about this and other "Democracy in America" programs in San Diego, see the calendar on page nine of this newsletter. For information about this particular program, call CCH program officer Amy Rouillard at 619/232-4020.

Oct. 26 Presentations in the second "Seminar" held in conjunction with the "Fine Art of California Indian Basketry Exhibition" will include "Fifty Years of Basketry in Northwestern California: A Personal Perspective" by Vivien Hailstone (Karuk, Yurok, and member of the Hoopa Valley tribe), elder, educator and weaver, and "Native Environmental Management Practices and Basketry Materials," by Margaret Mathewson, basketry scholar and plant specialist. 1 p.m. At the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento. Call 916/264-5423 for more information and reservations.

Oct. 27 The CCH "Highway 99: Writers-In-Conversation" series features poet **Lawson Fusao Inada**, American Book Award winner and author of *Legends from the Camp and Before the War: poems as they happened*, in conversation with scholar Cheng Lok Chua. 2 p.m., Merced College Theater, Merced. Contact Dee Near at 209/384-6080 for more information.

Oct. 28 "Alexis de Tocqueville in Fresno" is a three-part in-person portrayal of de Tocqueville by scholar Richard Johnson. 7 p.m. Fresno Metropolitan Museum. For more information about this and other "Democracy in America" programs in Fresno, see the calendar on page nine of this newsletter. For information about this particular program, call 209/441-1444.

Oct. 30 "Alexis de Tocqueville in San Francisco" is an in-person, chautauqua-style portrayal of de Tocqueville by scholar Richard Johnson. 7 p.m. San Francisco New Main Library, Civic Center. For more information about this and other "Democracy in America" programs in San Francisco, see the calendar on page nine of this newsletter. For information about this particular program, call 415/391-1474.

"DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September - October 1996

During this Presidential Election season take a closer look at the issues behind the issues by joining the Council's "Democracy in America" discussions. Using Alexis de Tocqueville's seminal and still-provocative classic as the starting point, participants will explore some of the most perplexing and fundamental issues of the American democratic system. The series of programs culminates with chautauqua performances by scholar Richard Johnson portraying the great 19th-century observer of the American political scene, Alexis de Tocqueville.

So join a reading-and-discussion group, join a film-and-discussion group, join our online discussion, and come and ask Alexis de Tocqueville the hard questions about Democracy in America.



FRESNO, SEPT. 11 - OCT. 28

■ Introductory Session

September 11

Artes Americas Museum 6 p.m.
1630 Van Ness Avenue

A documentary film and an opening discussion will launch the Fresno exploration of American democracy. For information, contact Vida Samiian, associate dean of arts and humanities at CSU Fresno, 209/278-7069.

■ Reading-and-Discussion Groups

De Tocqueville's Democracy in America is the starting point for discussion of the topics listed below. Please note, the size of the discussion groups is limited and advance registration is requested.

SESSION 1:

"De Tocqueville and American Politics" led by historian Wendi Costa

Sept. 18: Fresno Metropolitan Museum Noon - 1 p.m.
Sept. 20: Fig Garden Regional Library 10 - 11 a.m.
Sept. 21: Barnes & Noble Bookstore 2 - 3 p.m.

SESSION 2:

"De Tocqueville's Views of Popular Culture and Mass Communication" led by Kaywin Feldman, Executive Director, Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Sept. 25: Fresno Metropolitan Museum Noon - 1 p.m.
Sept. 27: Fig Garden Regional Library 10 - 11 a.m.
Sept. 28: Barnes & Noble Bookstore 2 - 3 p.m.

SESSION 3:

"De Tocqueville and the Race Questions" led by historian Malik Simba.

Oct. 2: Fresno Metropolitan Museum Noon - 1 p.m.
Oct. 4: Fig Garden Regional Library 10 - 11 a.m.
Oct. 5: Barnes & Noble Bookstore 2 - 3 p.m.

Locations and Contacts: • Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Avenue; please contact Ann Wanger, education coordinator for the museum, at 209/441-1444. • Fig Garden Regional Library, 3071 West Bullard, at Marks; please contact Lydia Kuhn, the library's manager of adult materials and services to institutions, at 209/488-3856. • Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 21 E. Shaw Avenue; please contact Vida Samiian, associate dean of arts and humanities, CSU Fresno, at 209/278-7069.

■ National Conversation Symposium

October 11

Fresno Metropolitan Museum,
1515 Van Ness Avenue

"Art is the Soul of a Culture," is a discussion of the arts, democracy and cultural pluralism in America. For more information, please see the calendar listing on page eight of this issue of the newsletter or contact Vida Samiian, associate dean of arts and humanities at CSU Fresno, 209/278-7069.

■ Alexis De Tocqueville Chautauqua

October 28

Fresno Art Museum, 7 p.m.
2233 North First Street

Scholar Richard Johnson portrays Alexis de Tocqueville. For additional information, please contact Vida Samiian, dean of arts and humanities at CSU Fresno, 209/278-7069.

SAN DIEGO, SEPT. 4 - OCT. 20

■ Reading-and-Discussion Groups

De Tocqueville's Democracy in America is the focus of discussion of "Tyranny and the Majority," "American Character," "Race Relations," and "American Capitalism." Please note that the size of each discussion group is limited, so please call the host library before attending the discussion.

GROUP 1:

San Diego Central Public Library (619/236-5821)
820 E Street Sept 14, 28, and Oct. 19, 2 - 4 p.m.

Discussion led by Henry Janssen, retired professor of political science, San Diego State University.

GROUP 2:

Mission Hills Branch Library (619/692-4911)
925 W. Washington Sept 4, and Oct. 2, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Discussion led by Bong J. Kim, associate professor of history, San Diego City College.

GROUP 3:

Clairemont Branch Library (619/581-9936)
2920 Burgener Blvd. Oct. 2 and 16, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Discussion led by Candace Waltz, professor of humanities and history, San Diego City College.

For information please call the host library.

■ Film-and-Discussion Group

San Diego Central Public Library, 820 E Street, 6 p.m.

Oct. 2: Medium Cool, discussion led by Henry Janssen.

Oct. 9: Film TBA, discussion led by Candace Waltz.

Oct. 16: Film TBA, discussion led by Bong J. Kim.

For information about this film-and-discussion series, please contact Ralph de Lauro at 619/232-1225.

■ Alexis De Tocqueville Chautauqua

October 20

San Diego Central Public Library, 2 p.m.

Scholar Richard Johnson portrays Alexis de Tocqueville. For information, please contact CCH program officer Amy Rouillard at 619/232-4020.

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPT. 18 - OCT. 30

■ Reading-and-Discussion Groups

De Tocqueville's Democracy in America, is the starting point for discussion of "American Identity," "Race Relations," and "Democratic Institutions and Participation." Please note that the size of the discussion groups is limited and advance registration is requested.

GROUP 1:

San Francisco New Main Library,

San Francisco Civic Center Sept 18, Oct. 2, and Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Discussion led by historian Glenna Matthews (Institute of Urban and Regional Development, UC Berkeley).

GROUP 2:

Sunset Branch Library,

1305 18th Avenue Sept 30, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28, 7 p.m.

Discussion led by Dee Andrews, professor of history, CSU Hayward

GROUP 3:

Protrero Branch Library,

1616 20th Street Oct. 1, 15, 22, 7 p.m.

Discussion led by scholar David Matsuda, lecturer in anthropology, CSU Hayward

For more information please call Laura Lent at the SF New Main Library (415/557-4595), Glenda Goldwater at the Sunset Branch Library (415/753-7130), or Toba Singer at the Protrero Hill Branch Library (415/695-6641).

■ Film-and-Discussion Group

San Francisco New Main Library, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 1: Moscow on the Hudson, discussion led by David Matsuda.

Oct. 8: Films and discussion leader TBA.

Oct. 15: Films and discussion leader TBA.

Oct. 22: Road Scholar, discussion led by Dee Andrews.

For additional information, please contact CCH assistant director Ralph Lewin at 415/391-1474.

■ Alexis De Tocqueville Chautauqua

October 30

San Francisco New Main Library 7 p.m.

Scholar Richard Johnson portrays Alexis de Tocqueville. Audiences in Pasadena and Mendocino will also participate in this chautauqua program (see below). For additional information, please contact CCH assistant director Ralph Lewin at 415/391-1474.

PASADENA, OCT. 30

Alexis De Tocqueville Chautauqua - Via Videoconference

Pasadena Main Library 7 p.m.

Join the de Tocqueville chautauqua presentation with scholar Richard Johnson via videoconferencing provided under the auspices of Pacific Bell. For additional information about the chautauqua program and Pasadena-area Democracy in America reading-and-discussion groups, please contact Katy Currey, Lamanda Park Branch Librarian, 140 South Alta Dena, Pasadena. 818/793-5672.

MENDOCINO, OCT. 30

Alexis De Tocqueville Chautauqua - Via Videoconference

Mendocino; exact location TBA 7 p.m.

Join the de Tocqueville chautauqua presentation with scholar Richard Johnson via videoconferencing provided under the auspices of Pacific Bell. For additional information about the chautauqua program and Fort Bragg-area Democracy in America reading-and-discussion groups, please contact Sylvia Kozak-Budd, Branch Librarian, Ft. Bragg Library, 499 Laurel Street, Fort Bragg. 707/961-2625.

ONLINE

<http://www.calhum.org/>

In October, join the Citizenship listserv and discuss de Tocqueville's Democracy in America. For more information e-mail the Council at cch@netcom.com and ask for democracy discussion information.

Humanities News

Arts & Humanities Month Online Will Feature Collaboration with SFMOMA

As part of its commemoration of National Arts and Humanities Month, the Council will join with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to develop a world wide web project related to SFMOMA's exhibition, *Crossing the Frontier: Photographs of the Developing West, 1849 to the Present*.

The SFMOMA exhibit, which opens September 26, contains more than 250 images exploring the transformation of attitudes toward the land and landscape and placing landscape photography in the context of the cultural mythology surrounding the West.

Still in development as this issue went to press, the online project is expected to include an online gallery of photographs (with caption and commentary) drawn from the exhibition, interactive resources for teachers and students, and a series of scholar-led discussion groups about themes and issues raised by the exhibition.

If you'd like to know more about this online project, please send an e-mail message to cch@netcom.com and ask to be put on the Arts and Humanities Month Online mailing list. After October 1, look for the exhibition and discussions at the Council's web site (<http://www.calhum.org>).

Congressional Update

If the House version of the Interior Appropriations bill prevails in negotiations between Senate and House appropriations conferees, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will receive \$104.5 million in fiscal year 1997. This is \$5 million more than the \$99.5 million recommended by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, which is responsible for appropriations for NEH, and its sister agency the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). But it is less than the FY-1996 NEH appropriation of \$110 million, and far less than the \$136 million requested by President Clinton's FY-1997 budget or the \$176 million appropriated by Congress for the Endowment two years ago. During the recent House floor debate on funding for the NEH, Republican and Democrat supporters of the Endowment joined together to defeat an amendment calling for a further reduction in funding of \$12 million (to \$92.5 million).

As this issue of the newsletter went to press, the Senate had not completed its debate on an appropriations bill, but NEH supporters were hopeful that the Senate would approve an appropriation higher than that voted by the House.

The Endowments' futures are shaped by two separate types of legislation—authorizing bills, which allow the agencies to continue to exist and set spending ceilings, and appropriations bills, which determine the actual level of funding in the year ahead. Most observers believe the question of reauthorization of the NEH and NEA will not be taken up until early 1997. But the final language of the House Appropriations Committee may call for the phasing out of NEH in three years and the NEA in two years.

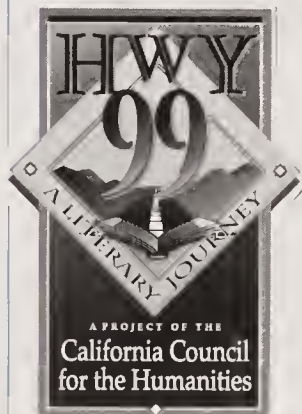
The Bakersfield Californian Makes Grant to Council's "Highway 99" Project

The Bakersfield Californian has awarded the Council \$3,000 for "Highway 99: A Literary Journey." The grant is to sponsor Gerald Haslam's appearance in the Bakersfield leg of the "Highway 99: Writers-in-Conversation" program.

Haslam, a Bakersfield native whose published works include *Condor Dreams and Other Fictions* and *The Constant Coyote: California Stories*, will read from his works, be interviewed on stage by writer James Houston, and respond to questions from the audience during a program at the Kern County Library on April 28, 1997.

Made in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Harrell family's ownership of the newspaper, *The Bakersfield Californian's* grant also supports the purchase of 100 additional copies of *Highway 99: A Literary Journey Through California's Great Central Valley*, the 400-page anthology of

Valley writers and writing being published for the Council by Heyday Books. These additional copies will be donated to schools, libraries, and other institutions in the Bakersfield area.



Can You Say "Sesquicentennial"? (ses-kwi-sen-'ten-ee-ul)

sesquicentennial, n: a 150th anniversary or its celebration.

At its June meeting, the Council voted to play a leading role in the commemoration of the California Sesquicentennial. Between 1997 and 2000, the Council will focus much of its grant making and program initiatives on public humanities projects that address and amplify the annual themes identified by the state's California Gold Discovery to Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission. Those themes are:

- 1998: "California's Golden Discoveries." In addition to the discovery of gold, other 'gold rushes' of California will be commemorated—citrus, wine, Hollywood, oil, aerospace, and information technology, to name a few.
- 1999: "California's Rich Heritage." The focus will be the commemoration of California's rich natural and cultural diversity—from redwoods to deserts, from California's first people, Native Americans, to today's rich blend of cultures.
- 2000. "California's Statehood and Vision." The focus will be on visions of California's future and what Californians of today will for future generations to discover.

In the coming months, the Council will refine its grant guidelines and initiative process to define its particular Sesquicentennial focus. Please watch for further Sesquicentennial information in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL *Continued*

will we condemn? Who will we choose to remember? Who will we choose to forget?

At the first meeting of the Sesquicentennial Commission last March, Commission Chairman Kevin Starr told his colleagues that he hoped the Sesquicentennial would offer "a moral reading of California." It would be hard to imagine a more immodest and reckless goal. It would be hard to articulate a more humanistic and necessary one.

Californians will be called on to imagine some of the foundational events of our state, some admirable, some not so admirable. Two dangers face us in our engagement with these events: one is denial, the refusal to face unpleasant truths; the other is what Wendell Berry calls "historical self-righteousness," the attitude that had *we* lived back then *we* would not have mistreated Indians, held slaves, etc. etc.

Both responses are failures of the moral imagination and are caused

by deficiencies of courage and compassion. As we judge our ancestors, so will we be judged by our progeny. It is the Council's hope that by thinking hard about how the lives and deeds of our predecessors look to us 150 years later, we shall be moved to think hard about how our lives and deeds will look to others 150 years from now.

Historical reflection can be an exercise in humility. I can illustrate this by relating a wonderful device used by historian James Rawls, who was the moderator of our "Columbus and After" chautauqua. At the beginning of each series of chautauqua performances, Jim would ask all fifth generation Californians—those whose great-great grandparents were born in California—to stand. A few people would stand up, to applause.

Then he would ask fourth-generation Californians to stand. A few more would rise. Then those whose grandparents were born in

California—by now several dozen people would be standing. Next those whose parents born here, and finally all native Californians. Even then, only *half* of the audience would be standing. There has never been a time since 1850 when more than half of the state's population was born here.

That was one lesson in humility. Another would come when Jim took out a yardstick. "Let every inch equal a thousand years," he'd say. Columbus came here 500 years ago—one-half of an inch. California's been a state for a little over one-eighth of an inch. Native Americans have lived in California for the length of the entire yardstick. The audience would get very quiet.

The task of bringing the events and issues of the Sesquicentennial to public consciousness will test the public humanities—its methods, its controversies, its conservative and subversive tendencies. The task will test the state's cultural organiza-

tions—their place in the public sphere, their powers of presentation, their institutional will. It will test the political, corporate, and philanthropic institutions of the state—their attention span, their sense of priorities, their generosity. And the task will test the California public—its capacity for reflection, for imagination, for listening and learning.

It's our responsibility to give this commemoration, this remembering together, perspective, color, depth of field, action—all qualities of a good vision. Not to mention honesty, balance, emotional intensity, and imagination—all qualities of a good humanities program. This will be the first official commemoration in which the California Council for the Humanities is a player. We can't know whether it will be the last. But whether it's our successors or historians who look back at our efforts in the bicentennial, let's give them something memorable to measure us by. ■

Humanities News

Proposal-Writing Workshops Offered

Workshops are scheduled during August for people interested in submitting grant proposals at the Council's October 1 deadline.

In San Diego

Tuesday, August 6 10 to Noon

Third Floor Meeting Room, San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street, San Diego.

In Los Angeles

Monday, August 12 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13 10 a.m. to Noon

Please Note: The Los Angeles office will also be offering proposal-writing workshops in Santa Ana, Thousand Oaks, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, and other communities in southern California. Please call the Los Angeles office for more information on these workshops.

In San Francisco:

For Media Project proposals

Wednesday, August 14 1:30 to 3 p.m.

For Public Project proposals

Thursday, August 15 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The workshops are free, but advance registration is required. Please call the nearest Council office (415/391-1474 in San Francisco, 213/623-5993 in Los Angeles, and 619/232-4020 in San Diego) to register and confirm dates and locations. Please also request and read the 1995-1996 *Guide to the Grant Program* before attending the workshop.

Council Meets in Sacramento in September

The California Council for the Humanities' quarterly meeting will be held in Room 500 of the California State Library, 914 Capitol Mall, Sacramento on September 16. Exact times for Council sessions had not been determined as this issue went to press. For additional information, please contact the Council's San Francisco office(415/391-1474).

New Council Members Sought

The Council will be selecting new members for its board in 1997 and invites the public to nominate outstanding individuals for the position. Council members serve three-year terms that are renewable once. A flyer with nomination information and a nomination form is included with this newsletter.

For additional copies of the nomination form, please contact the Council's San Francisco office. Completed nominations are due in the Council's San Francisco office no later than 4:45 p.m. Friday, October 11.

AirTouch Communications Foundation Makes Grant to Motherhead

AirTouch Communications Foundation has awarded a grant of \$2,500 to support the Council's Motherhead family reading program in Los Angeles. "We are pleased to be able to contribute to this important effort to help parents achieve success in their relationships with their children," Foundation Grants Manager Lee Fitzgerald said in announcing the award.

The AirTouch Communications Foundation supports programs that forge connections between people and give individuals the tools to become contributing and productive members of society. AirTouch Communications is a leading provider of wireless communications around the world.

CCH Motherhead Program Selected for KCET's First Book Project

The Council's Los Angeles-based Motherhead program has been selected to participate in a 10-month pilot phase of KCET's *First Book* project. The goal of *First Book* is to provide new books and book-related activity sheets to disadvantaged families on a monthly basis in order to empower them to begin home libraries and experience the joy of family reading.

"We especially want to inspire parents to recognize their role as their children's first teachers, so that their children will have the advantage of beginning their first day at school ready to learn," KCET project director Patricia Smart wrote in announcing the award.

Through *First Book* up to 75 Motherhead families will receive one book per family each month, activity sheets, and a presentation by KCET staff. *First Book* is a venture of the Ready to Learn Partnership of KCET and the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

Internships Available

The Council has several internship opportunities available for the Summer and Fall for undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities. Opportunities exist in each of the Council's office. Interested students should contact Alden Mudge in the San Francisco office (415/391-1474), Khisna Griffin or Margo McBane in the Los Angeles office (213/623-5993) or Amy Rouillard in the San Diego office (619/232-4020).

Oral History Association Annual Meeting Will Be in Philadelphia

The Oral History Association Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, October 10 - 13, at the Holiday Inn Select Center City. The meeting's theme will be "Oral History, Memory, and the Sense of Place." Among the featured speakers are Robin D.G. Kelley (New York University) and Spencer Crew (Smithsonian Institution). For registration information, contact the Oral History Association, PO Box 97234, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 76798-7234 (Phone: 817/755-2764; Fax: 817/755-1571; e-mail: OHA_Support@Baylor.edu).

THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

*As a reader of Humanities Network, please become
a Friend of the Humanities today.*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | ❖ Become a contributing subscriber of this <i>Humanities Network</i> newsletter.
❖ Receive printed acknowledgment in the next newsletter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | ❖ Monthly insider's preview of Council-supported free humanities activities.
❖ Acknowledgment in the Council's <i>Annual Report</i> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75 | ❖ Above plus:
❖ Audio cassette tape of historian Clay Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 | ❖ Above (except tape) plus:
❖ Autographed copy of <i>Epitaph for a Peach</i> by Council member Mas Masumoto, critically acclaimed book that chronicles the seasons on a California family farm. |

Please make checks payable to CCH.

Name _____
(as you wish to be acknowledged in "Humanities Network"
and in our Annual Report)

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

☐ Is your gift matched by your employer?
Please check here and enclose matching gift form.

HUMANITIES

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The humanities explore human histories, cultures and values. They inform the conversations that are vital to a thriving democracy. They constitute our most important human inheritance.

The purpose of the California Council for the Humanities is to create a state in which all Californians have lifelong access to this shared inheritance. The Council is governed by a volunteer board drawn from leaders in public and academic life. It is an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and operates as a public-private partnership rather than a government agency.

The Council creates and supports public humanities programs throughout California. These include California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA), which provides administrative support and a means for sharing exhibits among members of a statewide network of small museums; Motherhead, a family reading program in Los Angeles; a statewide chautauqua tour with Clay Jenkinson portraying Thomas Jefferson; Humanities Online, a world wide web project providing scholar-led discussions via e-mail and hypertextual links to cultural calendars and humanities resources of interest to the online community; publications distributed to libraries, scholars, and the public; and, in 1996 and 1997, "Highway 99: A Literary Journey," a first-ever, large-scale public exploration of writers and writing from California's Great Central Valley.

The Council also conducts a competitive grants program. Since 1975, it has awarded nearly \$13 million to over 1,700 non-profit organizations, enabling them to produce exhibits, film and radio programs, and lecture series and conferences on topics significant to Californians.

The Council is an independent, not-for-profit organization. It is supported by grants from NEH, corporations and foundations, and by contributions from individuals. It receives no state funds.

Major grant proposals are due on April 1 and October 1. Out-of-cycle grants—proposal planning grants, minigrants, and film-and-speaker grants—are accepted on the first day of each month. Interested non-profit organizations should request a copy of the Guide to the Grant Program from the San Francisco office.

Page proofs for this publication were created on equipment donated by Apple Computer.

ROBERT BENEDETTI, CHAIR

*Dean, College of the Pacific
Stockton*

ISABEL ALEGRIA

*Journalist
San Francisco*

PAUL APODACA

*Curator of Native American Art, Bowers
Museum
Santa Ana*

RUTH BLOOM

*Art Dealer and Community Activist
Marina Del Rey*

GLORIA BUSMAN

*Labor Educator and Writer
Carlsbad*

ELLIOTT BUTLER-EVANS

*Associate Professor of English
UC Santa Barbara*

SHARLEEN COOPER COHEN

*Writer
Encino*

MARY CURTIN

*Community Relations Consultant
Riverside*

PENELOPE FLORES

*Professor of Secondary Education
San Francisco State University*

DAVID K. GLIDDEN

*Professor of Philosophy
UC Riverside*

MARIE G. KELLEY

*President, Kelley Productions
La Jolla*

J. JORGE KLOR DE ALVA

*Class of 1940 Professor of Comparative Ethnic
Studies and Anthropology
UC Berkeley*

DAVID MAS MASUMOTO

*Writer and Farmer
Del Rey*

ANN NICKOLL

*Political Activist
Beverly Hills*

GAINES POST, JR.

*Professor of History
Claremont McKenna College*

SANTIAGO RODRIGUEZ

*Director, Multicultural Programs,
Apple Computer, Inc.
Cupertino*

KEVIN STARR

*State Librarian of California
Sacramento*

CHRISTINE SISLEY

*Executive Director, The Ralph M. Parsons
Foundation
Los Angeles*

PATRICIA A. TURNER

*Associate Professor of African-American
and African Studies
UC Davis*

S T A F F

James Quay
Executive Director

Jeannie Mac Gregor
Assistant Director

Ralph Lewin
Assistant Director

Elliot Klein
Development Director

Margo McBane
Program Officer

Amy Rouillard
Program Officer

Rosalino Dizon
Fiscal Administrator

Teri X. Yazdi
Office Manager

Craig Phillips
Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Heider
Typist

Khisna Griffin
Motherhead Coordinator

Katie McMurrin
Office Assistant

Mary Beth Sheehan
*Museum Program
Coordinator*

Alden Mudge
*Director of
Communications*

NEXT PROPOSAL DEADLINE: October 1, 1996

Proposals must conform to the *Guide to the Grant Program*. Send 15 copies to the San Francisco office by the due date.

HUMANITIES

Summer 1996 • Volume 18 / Number 3

312 Sutter Street
Suite 601
San Francisco, CA 94108
415 / 391-1474

315 W. Ninth Street
Suite 702
Los Angeles, CA 90015
213 / 623-5993

614 Fifth Avenue
Suite C
San Diego, CA 92101
619 / 232-4020

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit No. 11379

Network

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES



Printed on recycled paper

